

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 SAB-02 /139 W  
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0429

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 01212

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, MARR, PEPR, UNGA, PN, US

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PANAMANIAN PERM REP TO UN  
SECRETARY GENERAL

1. THE UN SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED (AS DOCUMENT A/33/73) A LETTER FROM PANAMANIAN PERMREP ILLUECA TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, UNDER ITEM 50 (STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY) OF THE PRELIMINARY LIST FOR THE 33RD GA. THE LETTER IS ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTE VERBALE (TEXT BELOW) AND FOUR APPENDICES: 1) THE US SENATE RESOLUTION OF RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY CONCERNING THE PERMANENT NEUTRALITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL, 2) A MARCH 16 STATEMENT BY SENATOR DECONCINI ON AMENDMENT 83, 3) SENATOR KENNEDY'S MARCH 16 STATEMENT ON "MILITARY INTERVENTION IN PANAMA," AND 4) THE PANAMANIAN MFA'S MARCH 27 COMMUNIQUE ON THE CANAL TREATIES.

2. THE TEXT OF THE NOTE VERBAL, DATED 28 MARCH 1978 WITH REFERENCES TO DOCUMENTATION DELETED, FOLLOWS:

- THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA TO THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS  
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TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM HIM THAT HIS EXCELLENCY BRIGADIER GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS HERRERA, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, HAS ADDRESSED A LETTER TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

- GENERAL TORRIJOS' LETTER AND THE DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED MAKE REFERENCE TO THE VOTE WHICH TOOK PLACE ON 16 MARCH 1978 AT THE UNITED STATES SENATE ON THE RESOLUTION OF RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY CONCERNING THE PERMANENT NEUTRALITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL. IN THIS RESOLUTION, APPROVAL TO THE RATIFICATION WAS GRANTED SUBJECT TO A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS, CONDITIONS, RESERVATIONS AND UNDERSTANDINGS, INSERTING AMONG THEM A PRE-CONDITION TO AMERICAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEUTRALITY TREATY, KNOWN AS THE "DECONCINI AMENDMENT."

- ACCORDING TO ITS PROPONENT, THE "DECONCINI AMENDMENT" IS INTENDED TO GIVE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE UNILATERAL AND PERPETUAL RIGHT TO "TAKE MILITARY ACTION ON PANAMANIAN SOIL WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT", PRETENDING THAT SAID AMENDMENT MUST BE CONSTRUED TO PERMIT THE UNITED STATES TO INTERVENE IN PANAMA IN THE EVENT OF LABOUR UNREST, STRIKES, A SLOW-DOWN, OR UNDER ANY OTHER PRETEXT LABELED AS INTERFERENCE WITH CANAL OPERATIONS.

- NOT ONLY DOES THE AMENDMENT MAKE NO REFERENCE TO THE REGIME OF NEUTRALITY, BUT, AS STATED BY SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, WHO OPPOSED THE DECONCINI AMENDMENT, "PANAMA HAS WAITED 75 YEARS SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE  
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TO END AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF ITS HEARTLAND. IT MUST WAIT ANOTHER 22 YEARS BEFORE IT ACHIEVES FULL CONTROL OVER ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY." NOW PANAMA IS ASKED, IN KENNEDY'S WORDS, "TO ACCEPT AN AMENDMENT WHICH HAS THE RING OF MILITARY INTERVENTIONISM - NOT JUST DURING THIS CENTURY, BUT FOR ALL TIME."

- SINCE THE TREATY PROVIDES FOR ACCESSION BY ALL STATES TO THE PROTOCOL WHEREBY THE SIGNATORIES WOULD ADHERE TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NEUTRALITY TREATY AND AGREE TO RESPECT THE REGIME OF NEUTRALITY, THE PANAMANIAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED IT HIS DUTY TO ADDRESS THIS LETTER TO THE HEADS OF STATE OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE STATES MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT IN SO MANY INSTANCES HAVE OFFERED THEIR SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT TO THE PANAMANIAN NATION IN ITS LONG STRUGGLE TO REACH A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTION BASED ON THE RECOGNITION OF HER SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TOTALITY OF ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY. END TEXT

3. COPIES POUCHED TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S OFFICER,

IO/UNP (SCHIELE), ARA/PAN, AND EMBASSY PANAMA.  
LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, TREATY RATIFICATION, TEXT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, NOTE VERBALE, CANALS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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